



9 April 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

**RE: FY 2026 Community Project Funding Request for IDA Airport Terminal Expansion Project**

Dear Representative Simpson,

Thank you for considering the City of Idaho Falls' FY 2026 Community Project Funding request. As you know, as a city, Idaho Falls is a non-profit entity and, thereby eligible to receive community project funds.

The City of Idaho Falls is requesting federal assistance for **Idaho Falls Regional Airport Terminal Expansion**. The requested funds will be used to provide needed additional space for outbound baggage operations, improve safety by providing adequate space to load baggage carts, and improve operational efficiency. The expansion will also provide additional space for new airline entrants into our market, expanding potential air service possibilities in the future.

In three of the last four years, Idaho Falls has been named America's Best-Performing Small City by the Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities Index based on economic performance. It is a point of pride for the city that our investment in infrastructure and resources has made Idaho Falls America's top small city with continued strong job and wage growth. With this growth has come a tremendous increase in travelers and new flight service to the airport. In 2022 and 2023, the airport surpassed the FAA Terminal Area Forecast for enplanements for the year 2041! At the time of this letter, the Idaho Falls Regional Airport expects more than 70,000 additional seats to be offered in our market in this calendar year 2025 compared to calendar year 2024. With these additional seats, another record year is expected that exceeds all recent forecasts. Funding the terminal expansion will allow the airport to serve citizens, support regional economic growth, and continue to transform Idaho Falls into a top destination for nuclear commerce, agricultural innovation, and a jumping off point for countless outdoor adventures.

Thank you for considering this important request for our city and the region. If you have any questions, please contact Idaho Falls Airport Director, Ian Turner, at 208-612-8221. Under his leadership, the airport has turned a corner in terms of managing all this growth. We appreciate your leadership and shared interest in making Idaho Falls a stronger, more vibrant community that addresses the needs of all our residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Noah Casper, Ph.D.  
Mayor, City of Idaho Falls